

It is time to distinguish between "free speech" and "paid speech" in politics. Our political system is being perverted by "paid speech," in which the person or party with the most money gets to speak the most, and by the kind of "free speech" Pappas Telecasting Companies' is providing to Republican candidates. In addition to being a perversion of the concept of free speech, it is an abuse of the public airwaves.

Pappas uses the public airwaves free of charge and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. Pappas' actions are legally questionable and cast doubt on whether Pappas truly intends to serve the public interest. Their actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. Further, they show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than just a returned postcard. Thank you.